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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

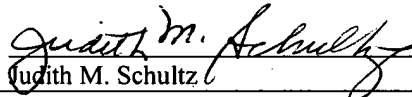
Applicant: Masataka Shinoda et al.  
Serial No: 10/718,479  
Confirmation. No.: 8429  
Filed: November 20, 2003  
For: PICTURE PRODUCTION SYSTEM, AND PICTURE  
PRODUCTION APPARATUS AND METHOD

Examiner: Not yet assigned  
Art Unit: 2176

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

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Judith M. Schultz

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows: